



Statement of Support from the America East Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

To:

Rep. Chris Pappas
Rep. Maggie Goodlander

Esteemed members of the House of Representatives for the state of New Hampshire. My name is Riley Donahue, and I am a former women's basketball student-athlete at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, representing the student-athletes of the America East Conference at the Division I level. My conference proudly marks its regional presence across the northeast states, from Maryland all the way to Maine.

As a representative of the America East Conference, I wholeheartedly support the Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act (SCORE Act) as a critical step in protecting student-athletes' rights, opportunities, and well-being. Being a student-athlete has taught me that our success depends on more than just wins and losses; it depends on the people guiding us and the support systems around us. Coaches and staff aren't just there to manage us; they're the ones helping us navigate the intense demands of athletics while also pushing us to grow into leaders, teammates, and community members. When that support is missing, the student-athlete experience suffers. The SCORE Act is about protecting us and making sure we're treated as whole people, not just athletes. It's about creating an environment where we can thrive in the classroom, on the court, and in life after sports.

This bill reinforces a fundamental truth: student-athletes are students above all else, NOT employees. The America East Conference SAAC strongly supports the provisions that broaden our access to NIL opportunities, agent representation, privacy safeguards, and financial transparency, all while preserving our non-employment status. The SCORE Act also ensures comprehensive medical care, support for degree completion, and essential health, safety, and educational resources. This bill fosters fairness and establishes consistent standards nationwide, reflecting a modern, student-centered vision for collegiate athletics.

As a student-athlete, I urge you to vote in favor of the SCORE Act. It is a bill that will protect student-athletes now, as well as the millions of future student-athletes, SAAC leaders,

and children with athletic dreams that will come after me.

Thank you for your time and dedication to improving college athletics.

As the representative of the America East Conference SAAC,

Riley Donahue

America East Conference NCAA Division I Representative

Former Women's Basketball Athlete

University of Maryland, Baltimore County